

TOURISM BULLETIN

ASSOCIATION OF TURKISH TRAVEL AGENCIES WEEKLY TOURISM BULLETIN APRIL 10-17 / 2023

While tourism plays a crucial role in the development of the economy, it is also an important instrument for cultures to get to know each other. On this occasion, I celebrate Tourism Week for all my colleagues who contribute to the development of tourism in our country, which fascinates with its unique natural beauty and cultural heritage, and I wish for a productive season.

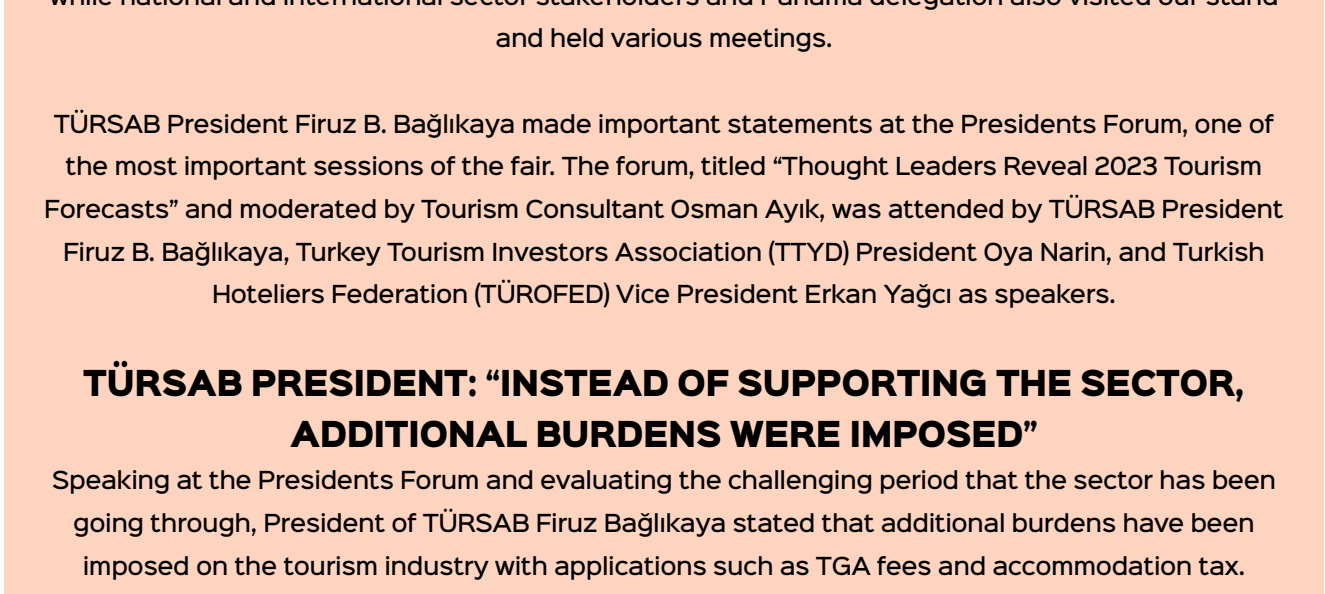
FIRUZ B. BAĞLIKAYA
TÜRSAB President



FİRUZ BAĞLIKAYA WARNED CITIZENS AGAINST FAKE TRAVEL AGENCIES

Firuz Bağlıkaya, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, gave an interview to Anadolu Agency at the 26th EMITT Fair. Bağlıkaya warned citizens against fake travel agencies and online fraud incidents as the movement increases in the tourism season and emphasized that the number of fake agencies and sales also increases.

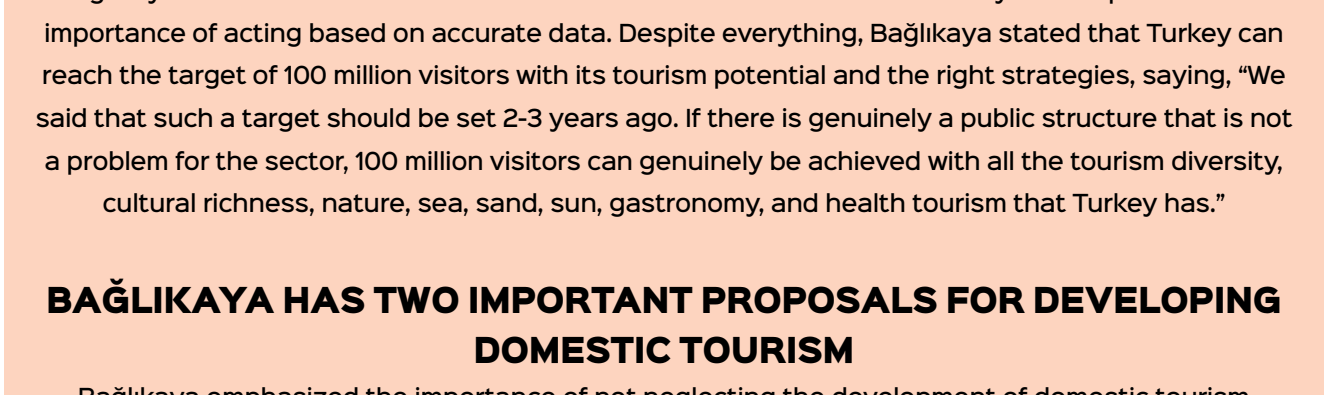
The interview of Bağlıkaya received extensive coverage in the press. For the full interview, please visit: <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/ekonomi/tursab-baskanl-baglikaya-yaklaslan-turizm-sezonu-oncesi-sahte-acentelere-karsi-vatandaslari-uyardi/2871819>



TÜRSAB PRESIDENT BAĞLIKAYA: "WE CAN REACH 100 MILLION THE VISITOR TARGET WITH THE RIGHT STRATEGY"

The East Mediterranean International Tourism and Travel Exhibition (EMITT) opened its doors for the 26th time, bringing together tourism professionals from all around the world under one roof. The TÜRSAB stand also received great interest at the fair. Speaking at the President's Forum held during the fair, TÜRSAB President Firuz B. Bağlıkaya stated that travel agencies have been ignored by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in the last 5 years, and said that the common sense in the sector has been eliminated. Despite all the difficulties, Bağlıkaya announced that with the impact of Turkey's tourism potential and proper management, the country can reach its goal of 100 million visitors.

The East Mediterranean International Tourism and Travel Exhibition, which was postponed due to the earthquakes that caused great destruction in 11 cities, opened for the 26th time. The TÜRSAB stand attracted a large number of participants and visitors from both domestic and foreign countries. TÜRSAB Board of Directors President Firuz B. Bağlıkaya, Board of Directors Members, Regional Representative Council Presidents, Specialty Presidents, and many travel agencies attended the fair and held important meetings.



On the first day of the fair, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, Antalya Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Muhittin Böcek, and their delegation visited the TÜRSAB stand, while national and international sector stakeholders and Panama delegation also visited our stand and held various meetings.

TÜRSAB President Firuz B. Bağlıkaya made important statements at the Presidents Forum, one of the most important sessions of the fair. The forum, titled "Thought Leaders Reveal 2023 Tourism Forecasts" and moderated by Tourism Consultant Osman Ayık, was attended by TÜRSAB President Firuz B. Bağlıkaya, Turkey Tourism Investors Association (TTYD) President Oya Narin, and Turkish Hoteliers Federation (TÜROFED) Vice President Erkan Yağcı as speakers.

TÜRSAB PRESIDENT: "INSTEAD OF SUPPORTING THE SECTOR, ADDITIONAL BURDENS WERE IMPOSED"

Speaking at the Presidents Forum and evaluating the challenging period that the sector has been going through, President of TÜRSAB Firuz Bağlıkaya stated that additional burdens have been imposed on the tourism industry with applications such as TGA fees and accommodation tax. Bağlıkaya, who mentioned three significant disasters such as pandemic, war, and earthquake in recent times, continued his words as follows: "There are three significant events related to tourism. What is expected from the ministry? It is to provide a bit of support when there are such significant disasters, isn't it? So, what happened? TGA was established, and taxes were collected from everyone. When the industry was expecting help, the opposite happened. We had to pay extra taxes during such a period with such significant events. Then the accommodation tax came. Since the minister took office, museum ticket prices have increased between 900% and 1400%. So, these were done at a time when tourism should have been supported and given importance."



However, the reality of the industry is not this. Travel agencies are the locomotive of tourism everywhere in the world," said Firuz Bağlıkaya.

Bağlıkaya also stated that the revision of tourism revenues is far from reality and emphasized the importance of acting based on accurate data. Despite everything, Bağlıkaya stated that Turkey can reach the target of 100 million visitors with its tourism potential and the right strategies, saying, "We said that such a target should be set 2-3 years ago. If there is genuinely a public structure that is not a problem for the sector, 100 million visitors can genuinely be achieved with all the tourism diversity, cultural richness, nature, sea, sand, sun, gastronomy, and health tourism that Turkey has."

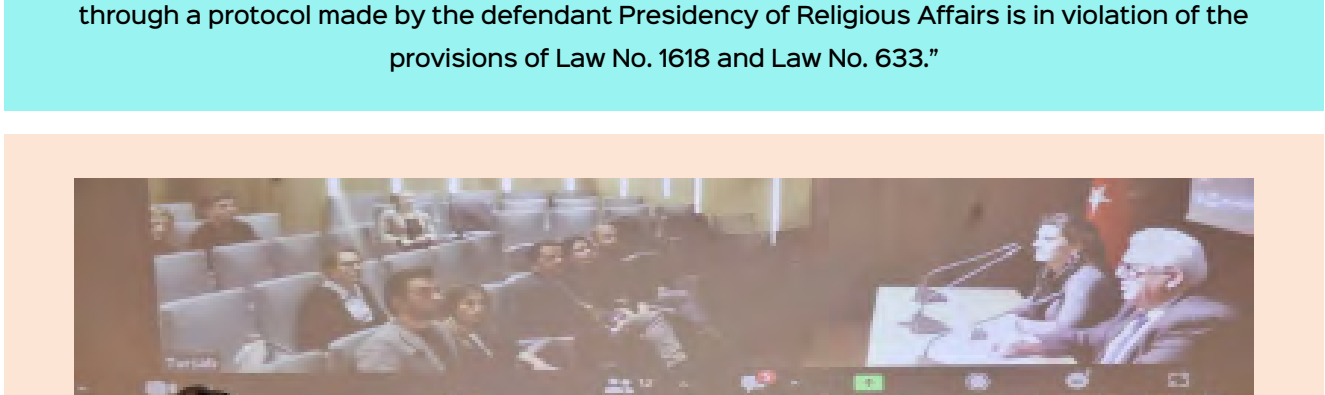
BAĞLIKAYA HAS TWO IMPORTANT PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPING DOMESTIC TOURISM

Bağlıkaya emphasized the importance of not neglecting the development of domestic tourism alongside increasing the number of foreign visitors and tourism revenue coming into our country. He stated that he has two important suggestions for developing the domestic tourism market. Bağlıkaya said, "A reduction in VAT and Stamp Duty should be applied to the quotas that hotels allocate to the domestic market. It is necessary to provide travel and vacation support to civil servants, workers, and retirees, and these supports should also be tax-deductible. Employers should be able to allocate such a budget to their employees and deduct it from their taxes. We will convey these suggestions to whoever takes power after the elections."



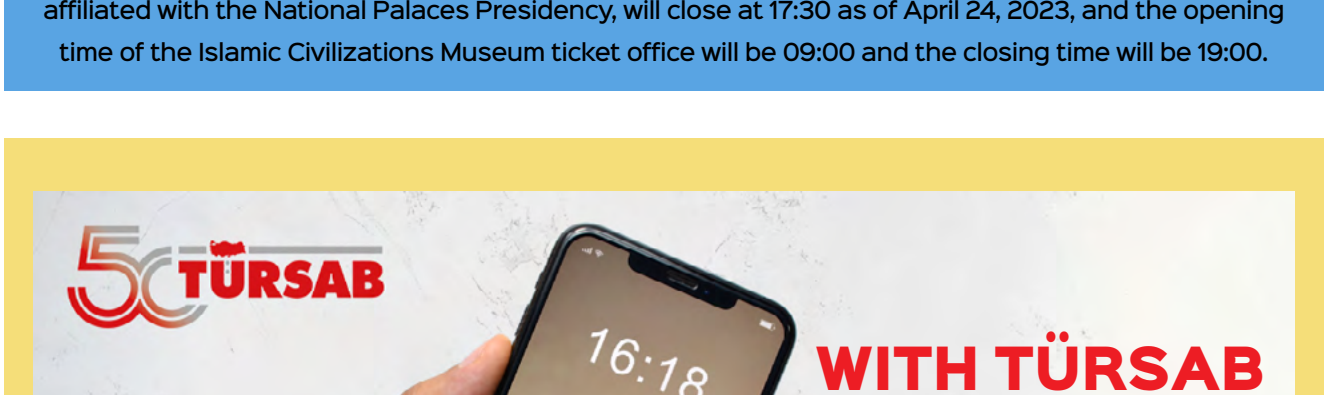
PRESIDENT OF TTYD OYA NARIN: "PANDEMIC MOSTLY AFFECTED TRAVEL AGENCIES"

Speaking at the Presidents Forum, President of TTYD Oya Narin stated that the tourism sector has been affected by many incidents since 2020 and has experienced ups and downs, noting that these processes have both exhausted and strengthened the sector's resistance. Oya Narin said, "Our sector has tried to manage a debt of up to 15 billion. We tried to overcome these processes with state support such as short-term working allowance. Even though the system is indebted, it continues to sustain itself. I think the most affected group in this process was our travel agencies and employees. TÜRSAB managed this process very well." Drawing attention to the importance of consultation in the tourism sector, Oya Narin continued her words as follows: "Decisions should be made by consultation. Tourism is not just about Antalya. We have experienced processes such as the Tourism Consultation Board not working and obtaining permission for the Presidents to come together. An emergency action plan should be prepared in the upcoming period. Regardless of who the government is, a 100-day plan should be made to plan the infrastructure of the sector, including the incentive model. Our current bed capacity also needs to be renewed with a serious incentive system."



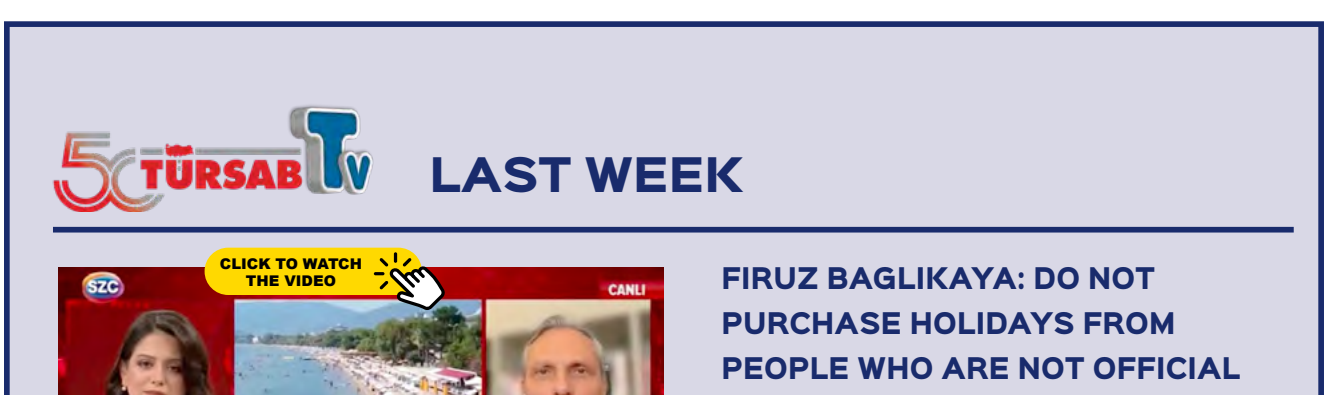
EKREM İMAMOĞLU: "WE ARE WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH TÜRSAB"

Ekrem İmamoğlu, the Mayor of İstanbul, gave an interview to TÜRSAB TV at the 26th EMITT Fair. İmamoğlu stated that "our tourism expectation for İstanbul is very high this year. We are working effectively with TÜRSAB, and I thank the President for that. Tourism is a high-value-added sector for both İstanbul and Turkey. 30 million tourists are an important target for us, but at the same time, we aim for a quality tourism experience. The tourism sector has an infrastructure that is almost 50-60 years old." İmamoğlu also mentioned the special tram line being built for the transportation of cruise ships to the historical peninsula. "There are different new destinations in İstanbul, such as Galataport, Halıçort, and cultural areas like Feshane. All these will be integrated with each other. We have projects related to sea transportation. Some of them have already been implemented, while others will be implemented in the spring and summer months. Eminönü shore is becoming very beautiful. The tram line extends from Eminönü to Eyüp Sultan and Alibeyköy. The historical peninsula is already a special line for us. I wish everyone success."



OUR STAND AT THE 26TH EMITT-EAST MEDITERRANEAN INTERNATIONAL TOURISM AND TRAVEL FAIR RECEIVED GREAT INTEREST

Our association's booth received great interest from the leading representatives of tourism from all around the world who gathered at the Emitt-Eastern Mediterranean International Tourism and Travel Fair. The TÜRSAB management discussed new cooperation opportunities with the delegations who visited our booth during the fair. On the second day of the fair, officials from Düzce Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism, the Chamber of Commerce of Macedonia, and the Chamber of Commerce of Edremit visited our stand, while the TÜRSAB management hosted delegations from the Tourist Guides Association and the Service Exporters Association, as well as the Edremit Chamber of Commerce.



OUR ASSOCIATION PARTICIPATED IN THE TOURISM WEEK PROGRAM ORGANIZED BY THE İSTANBUL METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

Our Vice President Hasan Eker, representing TÜRSAB, attended the opening ceremony of the Tourism Week Program organized jointly by İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality Culture Inc. and İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality Tourism Department.

KUDÜS TOURS ORGANIZED BY THE PRESIDENCY OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS WERE CANCELED BY COURT

Our lawsuit filed by our organization on 18.01.2022 with the Ankara 3rd Administrative Court under file numbers 2022/194 E. and 2023/556 K., claiming that the Presidency of Religious Affairs' travel agency activities carried out under the title of 'Jerusalem Tours' without an operating license were illegal, was unanimously accepted and the decision to cancel the contested transaction was made. In the decision of Ankara 3rd Administrative Court dated 28.02.2023, it was summarized that:
 • Defendant Presidency of Religious Affairs has no authority to carry out, promote and market Jerusalem tours,
 • It was ruled that the service of Jerusalem Tour program being carried out by another travel agency through a protocol made by the defendant Presidency of Religious Affairs is in violation of the provisions of Law No. 1618 and Law No. 633."

A MEETING BETWEEN THE SPECIALIZATION PRESIDENCIES OF GASTRONOMY TOURISM AND CULTURAL TOURISM WAS HELD

The first monthly meeting of TÜRSAB Gastronomy Tourism and Cultural Tourism Expert Committee was held on April 11, 2023, with the participation of TÜRSAB Gastronomy Tourism Expert Committee Chairman Erdal Çeri and TÜRSAB Cultural Tourism Experts Committee Chairman İlahım Seyyale at our TÜRSAB head office. During the meeting, the members introduced themselves and discussed the planned activities, demands, and suggestions for the new term.

THE OPENING AND CLOSING HOURS OF THE PALACE, PAVILION, PAVILION AND MUSEUM TOLLS HAVE BEEN CHANGED

The letter received from the Directorate of Museums and Promotion of the National Palaces Administration Presidency to our Association stated that; Due to the end of Ramadan, it was announced that the ticket offices of Topkapı Palace, Dolmabahçe Palace, Beylerbeyi Palace, National Palaces Kucukusu Museum, Palace Collections Museum, İhlamur Kasrı, Maslak Kasrı, Aynalıkavak Kasrı, Kucukusu Kasrı, Beykoz Medici Kasrı, National Palaces Beykoz Glass and Crystal Museum, affiliated with the National Palaces Presidency, will close at 17:30 as of April 24, 2023, and the opening time of the Islamic Civilizations Museum ticket office will be 09:00 and the closing time will be 19:00.

WITH TÜRSAB MOBILE APPLICATION, ALL YOUR TRANSACTIONS ARE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Our TÜRSAB Mobile Application is online! It has been applied as a part of our Association's Digital Transformation and will enable you to access our TÜRSAB services in the easiest and fastest way. You may easily access many of our services for our members and consumers, such as TÜRSAB Online, TÜRSAB KART, license plate inquiry, plate status notification, Digital Verification System, QR Code Verification, and member agency inquiry, via your mobile devices, and practically perform your transactions. You can download our TÜRSAB Mobile Application, which will provide benefits to our members and users, to your mobile devices free of charge via the links below.

TÜRSAB AGENCY SOFTWARE

The "TÜRSAB Agency Software" continues to be used to enable our travel agencies to easily carry out their business, maintain customer inventories, and quickly organize tour programs. Our agencies can now easily access the reservation, reporting, and customer information program via the internet through mobile devices and computers, free of charge. The TÜRSAB Agency Software can be used by obtaining an agency code through TÜRSAB Online from the website www.tursabyazilim.org. For more detailed information, please visit: <https://www.tursab.org.tr/.../uyelerimiz-50-yilimiz-ozel>

TÜRSAB TV LAST WEEK

FIRUZ BAĞLIKAYA: DO NOT PURCHASE HOLIDAYS FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT OFFICIAL TRAVEL AGENCIES

Our President Firuz Bağlıkaya was a live guest on the Haber Bülteni program hosted by Damla Doğan Tuncel on Sözcü TV on April 16th. Bağlıkaya discussed the matters that consumers should pay attention to while purchasing holidays before the upcoming holiday season and shared his evaluations on the season.

"THERE IS NO HOLIDAY SALE ON SOCIAL MEDIA"

CNN Türk covered Firuz Bağlıkaya's statements on social media fraud and the tourism season.

"TURKEY WILL HOST 50 MILLION TOURISTS THIS YEAR"

Our President Firuz Bağlıkaya was a guest on TRT Haber on April 11th. In his evaluations on the tourism expectations for 2023, Bağlıkaya stated that "Turkey will host 50 million tourists this year. We will end this year with a high performance as we expected."

BTK BAŞKANLARI İLE SON DURUM

Gürkan Özcan, the İstanbul Fatih Regional Representative, was a guest on our program "BTK Başkanları ile Son Durum," hosted by our Media and Communications Manager Serkan Tahmaz. The program, which was aired on April 11th, covered the ways to increase tourism activities in the Historical Peninsula and the unknowns of İstanbul.

